



THE SIBYLS

Christian Spirituality Group for the Transgendered
BM Sibyls, London WC1N 3XX

36 Salmons Lane
Whyteleafe
Surrey
CR3 0AN

NEWSLETTER 46

June 2008

020 8763 0146

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Regular Meetings

London usually the second Thursday of every second month at 5.30 - Service at St Anne's, Dean Street, Soho, followed by a meal together - August 14 and October 9.

Manchester every fourth Saturday of the month at MCC. Contact Jenny-Anne 01606 783035, jennyannebuk@yahoo.co.uk or www.mccmanchester.co.uk/trans.htm

Rosie's Meeting in Dorset - every four months between 12 Noon and 4 o'clock at Rosie's house - ring Rosie 01258 830889. Next date Saturday October 11.

Other Events in 2008

Saturday 5 July - Jay's Garden Party

Weekends

2008 Friday 13 to Sunday 15 September - St Columba's, Woking

2009 Friday 15 to Sunday 17 May - Whaley Hall, Derbyshire

2009 Friday 11 to Sunday 13 September - Holland House, Worcestershire

2010 Friday 21 May to Sunday 23 May - Windermere

PLEASE HOLD IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please pray for David in ongoing illness, all those who cannot for whatever reason take the course of action their heart desires, and for all those known to us who are in need, and those with disabilities or who are in pain.

LISTENERS

People who are prepared to listen to others and are happy to be available are listed below. If you need someone to talk to, choose which one and give them a ring: -

Michelle Le Morvan 01743 341026
Jenny Bond 01623 836662
Jane Bowles 01492 660147
Jenny-Anne Bishop 01606 783035
Carol Moore 01625 858487

The listening system works. There are a number of Sibyls who use this service. If you want someone to talk it over with, why not give it a try?

JAY'S GARDEN PARTY - SATURDAY 5 JULY

Usual format - shady hats, summer dresses, peaceful garden, a communion service taken by the Rev'd Martin Kelly (weather permitting, under the cherry tree) lots of food and chat. Peace and time to be. Come and enjoy. Please give me a ring if you are coming.

WEEKEND AT WINDERMERE - MAY 2008

This was an excellent weekend enjoyed by all. There was much of a deeply spiritual nature, the Offices were very good, the outings much enjoyed and the entertainment fabulous. Most of the arrangements for the future running of Sibyls were settled (full account later in the newsletter). It was a super weekend and we shall be back there again. Jan is writing a full account.

WEEKEND AT ST COLUMBA'S - 13-15 SEPTEMBER 2008

This too will be a super weekend, deep and interesting in the capable hands of Tina Beardsley, Michelle O'Brien and Jasmine Woolley. You will not have forgotten the fascinating workshop that Tina and Michelle organised at Holland House which had such an impact. This is being restarted at this weekend and taken forward. Don't worry if you weren't at Holland House, you won't be at a disadvantage. They will be starting again and then taking you on. It was an amazing experience and I am sure that many of you will want to be at St Columba's.

St Columba's is in the throes of rebuilding and converting all the rooms to en suite. The rooms will not have been converted by the time that we are in residence. However the problem is that not all the existing rooms will be available. When we were last there, in 2006, we took 21 rooms with 23 people. This time we have only 15 rooms, five of which are twins, a total of 20 people if all sharing opportunities are taken.

Therefore I am only taking bookings for the full weekend. If they are not taken up, 24 hour bookings will be available at £67 per day, but I think it fair to give priority to those who will be there for the full weekend. I don't press anyone to share if they don't want to, and quite understand if you would rather not. However this time I will be asking if you would, as it may help someone to be there. The meals only tariff is being quoted should anyone (like me) be in reasonable reach of St Columba's and be able to come to the weekend but sleep at home.

There is a hotel in Woking with which St Columba's has overflow arrangements. Please indicate if you would be prepared to stay at the hotel. The agreed (reduced) tariff is £39 per night, at the Metro Hotel, Chertsey Road, Woking, telephone 01483 727100. Book through us, including all meals at St Columba's, but you must pay your hotel account direct. I don't

know what the state of our funds may be but it might be possible for Sibyls to subsidise the hotel costs over and above the booking rate of £130 for the weekend. No promises but we will keep the situation in mind.

I am sorry if any of this inconveniences you and would have wished that things had been normal. However we have to deal with the situation as it is, not as we would like, and I think that this is the best way.

Booking form attached. This is your **last chance** to book before the weekend.

Tina Beardsley writes:-

Preparatory work for Saturday afternoon session:-

With more time available this year we will be able to develop all the strands of the "Gender, Sexuality, Spirituality" workshop, including the movement/performance aspect

Please prepare for this session in three ways:-

1. By observing and making notes on how men and women move/walk/occupy space - noting the differences/variations, if any. ***Please bring these notes with you.***
2. By selecting a picture or pictures that express something powerful (to you) about gender, sexuality, or spirituality - or even one picture that encompasses all three. Maybe the image or images have haunted you for years; or, if nothing particular comes to mind, try using prayer and dream to let the picture choose you, rather than the other way round. ***Please bring the picture(s) with you.***
3. By wearing suitable clothing at this session i.e. something suitable for moving in a space or lying or moving on the floor. ***Please bring these clothes with you!***

ROSIE'S MEETING - NORTH DORSET - SATURDAY 11 OCTOBER

Sadly the June meeting could not be held. Unfortunately Marion, who normally takes the communion service, has suffered a stroke and is recovering slowly; we wish her well. With a combination of circumstances many of the regulars could not come and Rosie ended up with a few who of course managed to enjoy themselves.

The next meeting will be held at Rosie's house at noon on Saturday 11 October when hopefully all will be well and the usual meeting held. Please give her a ring to confirm attendance (necessary for catering) and to get directions. 01258 830889. No charge, thanks Rosie, but donations to Sibyls if you wish.

WINTERSHALL PASSION PLAY, BRAMLEY, GUILDFORD

Due to lack of interest, this visit was cancelled.

LONDON EVENING MEETINGS

These meetings are very good; gentle lovely evenings with a service which is always thoughtful, peaceful and healing, followed by a good meal in a peaceful restaurant with a nice atmosphere. Nourishment for mind, body and spirit. The new Rector at St Anne's the Rev'd David Gilmore has made us very welcome and took the service.

We still haven't decided on a restaurant and so we will wait at the church until about 6.15 and then go to the restaurant of our choice. That creates a problem if you are late. The suggestion is that I will switch on my mobile 07719 726933 and you can ring and get directions.

Please don't ring me on my mobile at any other time because it won't do you any good. My mobile is for emergency use only and therefore it stays switched off, sometimes for months on end. Any message you leave will probably get wiped before it is heard. On the other hand messages on my home phone I will always attend to sooner or later.

Details: 5.30 service at St Anne's, 55 Dean Street, Soho W1D 6AF, 40 yards up on the left from Shaftesbury Avenue (it doesn't look like a church but it is), and from about 6.15 a meal at a local restaurant. Next meeting - Thursday 14 August. Every two months, on the second Thursday - except when it isn't. No need to book - just come.

MANCHESTER MEETINGS

Jenny-Anne and Elen organise events in the North-West. There is a regular monthly meeting, fourth Saturday, at the Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) in Manchester. MCC is a friendly, welcoming, inclusive church. Jenny-Anne can be contacted on 01606-783035 or by e-mail jennyannebuk@yahoo.co.uk. The MCC has its own website www.mccmanchester.co.uk/trans.htm.

CHRISTOPHER MORGAN - RIP

I was astonished and sad to read in The Times today (5 June) that Christopher Morgan has died by his own hand. That is especially tragic. Those Sibyls who have been members for a long time will remember Christopher Morgan. He was the religious affairs correspondent of The Sunday Times and very keen to know about us and all our members. He led us a merry dance, being very interested in the doings of the Sibyls and even on one occasion giving us the major headline on the front page of The Sunday Times. We constantly had to be on guard for his various attempts to breach our security but he never succeeded. It looks as if the poor man has gone to his grave without ever finding those two women priests who had been men that he was convinced were to be found if only he could penetrate Sibyls' security. We shall miss him.

THE NEWSLETTER - ARTICLES

Please - write articles for the newsletter.

Items can be sent by e-mail to withers.susan@virgin.net (please note change of address) on CD or floppy 3½ inch disk to Jay (in Word, please) or print out in a clear typeface printed with black ink. Anything else defeats the scanner.

A big thank you to those who do write.

THE LAMBETH CONFERENCE

Tina, who is organising our representation, writes that three Sibyls - Stephanie, Stephen and Tina - will be at the Lambeth Conference on Friday 25th and Saturday 26th July and are hosting a seminar on trans issues and inclusion on the Friday afternoon from 2.30 to 3.30. This is being held in the name of Sibyls and the more Sibyls that can come the better. Please pray for this event, for Mia, the founder of Trans Afro, who will be joining them and that Cameron, from the USA, and David, from Uganda, will be able to be with them. Sibyls has become a partner organisation of Inclusive Church under whose auspices we are attending.

TALE PIECE

Three islanders from Lesbos are fighting a Greek gay group for the rights to the word "Lesbian". A court in Athens must decide whether the Homosexual and Lesbian Community of Greece will have to change their name. Islander Dimitris Lambrou complained, "My sister can't say she is a Lesbian. Our geographical designation has been usurped by certain ladies who have no connection with Lesbos."

Jay Walmsley (Miss)

Susie Withers (Mrs)

ONE MAN'S EXPERIENCE OF A POSSESSION

Raymus Bowerbank

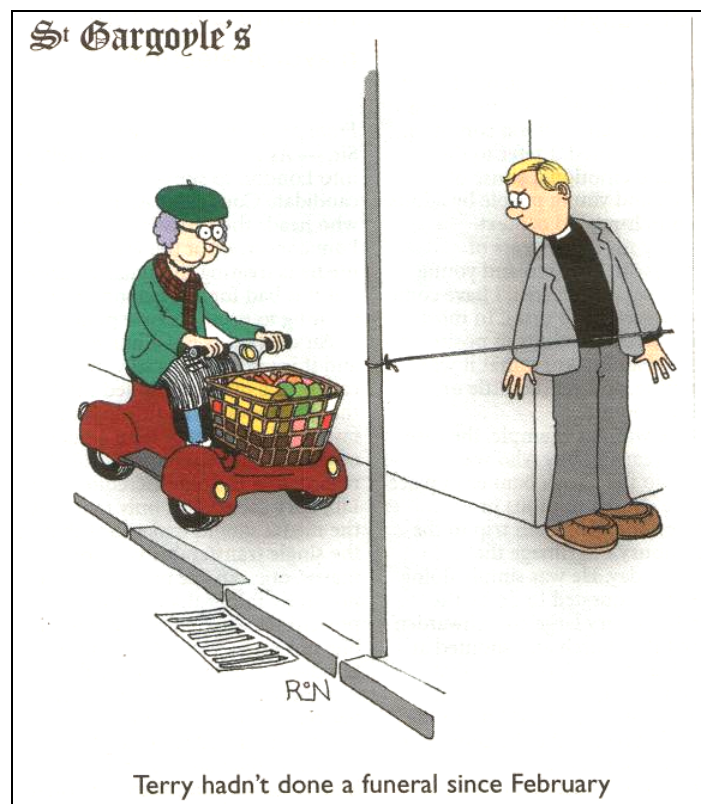
A man bought a small table at a car boot sale one Saturday. He took it home and decided to place it at the foot of his bed. Later that night he went to bed. After about an hour, he was woken by a loud hissing sound and a strange light. Then the table started turning into different things - a gas canister, a sack of coal, even a giraffe!

The next day the man called in a bishop who specialised in exorcism and also a psychic investigator, who filmed the next night's happenings, and also made notes of changes in temperature in the room. The bishop and the investigator then both came to the same conclusion. They said to the man, "Well, sir, you have to understand that it's turning into all these different things because it's an occasional table."

Not only was the weekend at Windermere very enjoyable but it also took enormous steps to sort out the leadership issue. The following was decided:-

1. Local meetings will continue as before under their own steam. Jenny-Anne runs meetings in Manchester at MCC to which Sibyls are always welcome. Rosie is running the Oasis meetings in North Dorset. I organise the Thursday meetings in London and the twice a year meetings at my house. All these continue.
2. The weekends are now secure. Elen has agreed to run the meetings in the North, Rosie and Elaine will run the Holland House weekend, and of course Tina, Michelle and Jasmine are running St Columba's weekend.
3. Tina has already taken over liaison with churches. Susie has volunteered to take over the editorship and distribution of the newsletter, Rosie will become point of contact and hold the membership list, and Peter will take over the finances. These changes will take place as and when each person feels sufficiently familiar with the jobs and with what is required. There is no hurry.

I am delighted. It is time to hand on to the next generation, never an easy thing to do. What really pleases me is that everyone has volunteered so cheerfully and willingly. What you want to do, you do well. It bodes well for Sibyls that such capable people have come forward so readily. God bless.



1. Jay thanked Elen and Jenny-Anne for organising a very successful and enjoyable weekend. She thanked Cerys, Michelle Le Morvan, Lesley and Susie for taking Offices, Lesley for being MC, and Jan for undertaking to be scribe, and simply everyone for being there and taking part so enjoyably. She later apologised to Pippa for forgetting to remember to thank her for organising the guided walk which had been enjoyed by all those who went on it. Everyone affirmed that they would like another weekend at Windermere, which has been booked.
2. Jay mentioned that she had written about constellation work which can be a great help in seeing a way forward in difficult family situations. This work had been taken a stage further and found to be helpful in situations where an individual's need to move forward was being impeded by feelings of guilt from long held religious beliefs. It had been decided in consultation that it would not be possible to hold a weekend on constellation work (there would be simply too many people with a transgender background) but it might help individuals if they went to a general workshop. Such groups are very confidential and if anyone is interested they should get in touch with Jay.
3. The leadership issue was discussed. Please see the section dealing with the decisions taken and the way forward.
4. It was agreed that for future organisers, the weekend booking forms would ask for the email address (if any) and whether people wished to book to stay extra nights. This can often be arranged and it is very pleasant to stay on and enjoy, especially in such lovely parts of the world as the Lake District and the High Peak.

SIBYLS' ADVOCACY WITH THE CHURCHES UPDATE, JUNE 2008

Tina Beardsley

1. Workshop on 'Gender, Sexuality & Spirituality' at the European Forum of LGBT Christian Groups Annual Conference

The workshop has recently had its third airing – this time at 'Rainbow Ekumene': the annual conference of the European Forum of LGBT Christian Groups, which meets in a different European country each year. This year it was England's turn to host and the venue was the All Saints Pastoral Centre, near St Alban's. There were over a hundred delegates in total, from all over Europe, include Eastern Europe, but only three of us were Trans, as far as we know.

It was a brilliant conference with key-note addresses from musician and theologian June Boyce-Tillman and the Dean of St Alban's, Jeffrey John;

formal and informal worship; time to meet and make new friends; Evensong at St Alban's Abbey followed by dinner and disco on a Thames river boat.

Jasmine and I had a fab time! This was also the first occasion that we had presented the workshop together, but Jasmine had participated at Holland House, and we built on this experience to maintain the focus on participants' questions and interests. Twenty people took part in our workshop and we even managed to reach the crucial section entitled 'the interplay' which we had never achieved in previous workshops - when we said this the participants gave themselves a well-deserved round of applause.

When we develop the workshop at Woking in September there will be plenty of scope for engaging with 'the interplay' section and also for the 'performance/movement' session (which I have written about elsewhere in this newsletter) that has always been squeezed out on previous occasions. We knew that there wouldn't be time to explore 'gender in performance' at St Albans but we did have Peterson Toscano, the theatrical performance activist, in our workshop, which was a joy, as he has spent many hours listening to Trans people. One of the highlights of the Conference was Peterson's latest performance piece: *Transfigurations: Transgressing Gender in the Bible*. I won't say anymore about it here because I know that he is very keen to perform it for Sibyls and we are trying to arrange that for next year.

2. Listening to Trans People

The Lambeth Conference of Bishops of the Anglican Communion begins next month at Canterbury where Sibyls are hosting a seminar on 'Listening to Trans People' as part of the official programme of Fringe events. Bishop John Gladwin has kindly agreed to be our patron and we have the support and encouragement of Changing Attitude, with whom we work closely on advocacy matters. The date is Friday 25th July and the time 2.30-3.30pm. We have hired a room and refreshments for about 35 people – not many but a realistic number given that there are two other fringe events booked for that afternoon, as well as all the demands on the bishops from the main conference programme (they might just want a break sometimes!) Please help us by 'praying in' the bishops so that a good number do join us to hear Stephen's presentation on the difference between gender and sex and Stephanie's reflections on being Evangelical and Trans. Mia, the founder of Trans Afro will cover the African perspective and Cameron, from TransEpiscopal, the US scene. My role as the chair will be to ensure the safety of our speakers and that the atmosphere is one of mutual respect. We will also be around the Campus that weekend and at other times for informal conversations with the bishops especially when they visit the market place where will be a number of LGBT Christian stalls and displays.

Sandra Moore writes:-

Perhaps many of us who saw the television programme in January about transsexualism in Iran will agree with Jay that the attitudes adopted in the West whereby people are allowed freedom to choose what seems best for themselves is much to be preferred, relatively recent though this. Examining the Iran situation, one could not fail to be struck by the extraordinary position people who were actually gay were put into. For those who did not see the programme, a gay woman and several men of whom some were probably gay, possibly TV, and perhaps one or two TSs were more or less directed down a sex-change operation route under various social pressures, which include a possible death sentence for homosexual acts under some circumstances.

Perhaps we feel horror but those of us who remember the 50s or 60s, not to mention earlier, will realise that Iranian society is not unique in world history. At one time homosexuality was indeed considered in Britain as a thing to be punished by prison or treated by psychiatrists. The writers who suggested that Jesus was in fact gay or even slept with Mary Magdalene risked serious attack, equivalent to that proposed by some Muslims for Mohammed's cartoonists today. Only in certain repressive American states was it, I believe, common for transvestites to be arrested, but nonetheless a man who dressed as a woman was not likely to meet with understanding in many cultures.

Dose this not all lead us to ask ourselves what is it about homosexual acts or feelings which so disturbs cultures and individuals that they can consider homosexuals as damned and worthy of death?

Indeed I have myself met several post-op TSs who said to me 6 -10 years after their operation that in their case (but of course not in all) they were really gay men, and should have had the courage to live as such, and have sex with men, but they could not overcome the internalised social condemnation that would have entailed. They felt that they could not live with the idea of identifying themselves as a gay man; due no doubt to inner problems at the idea of what this implied. They preferred the idea of trying to be a woman, much as the Iranian model of today represents. To the students of the Koran in Iran, a man having sex with another man is a "violation of God's law", but it can be brought about if we consider that man really to be a woman and use science to approximate this, backed by social pressure, money and fear, it seems.

Examining this, one must ask what is it that makes homosexuality so much a subject of fear that even now it convulses societies whether Islamic or Christian or Jewish, and even their priesthoods?

One finds the answer in the Jewish roots of all these religions. It is a specifically Jewish idea that "men are men and women are women" and that the process of reproduction taking place between them is holy and subject to God. One will not by and large find anything similar within other religious traditions which survive only in remnants. But one can examine Celtic

religion, Indian, Chinese, etc and discover nothing like the emphasis on differences between men and women, and far more emphasis on what is common between genders. In those cultures, of which the Greek is the main example, one reads e.g. Plato's Symposium, in which men discuss love and beauty in terms of their boy paramours or young "Apollos". But we have to be clear that in the spiritual climate of Athens, sex with one's wife was considered an unimportant affair, whereas in Israel and religions derived from its religion, it was considered a duty, holy and necessary, commanded by God in all but very exceptional circumstances. On the other hand, homosexuality, which in Athens was normal, was in Judea a frightful sin which deprived one of being human at all.

We can only explain this by considering that the Jews were under a kind of direction to produce by a sort of hereditary manipulation, a body in which would live a special person, namely the Messiah. It was considered (as may be verified in the blood lines of Jesus as shown in the gospels of Luke and Matthew) necessary to keep Jewish blood pure and unadulterated in order that the Messiah (considered in two senses in those gospels) would result. To see the truth of this one can additionally read the book of Esdras 2 in the Apocrypha.

Whereas in Greece, this was so little of the idea of a "Christos" or "anointed one" that in the mystery of Dionysos, who exoterically turned water into wine, and indeed was in a sense present in both the corn and the grape, appeared dressed as a woman. Only his followers and friends were all women, intoxicated by his voice and his dance.

Studying Christianity one is therefore directed to two different approaches towards what Divine Humanity means. One, a predominantly Judaic approach, is preoccupied with the process of physical reproduction and its connections to the Moon. We see this in the practices of Islam and Judaism and in the 28 day rhythm of human reproduction. The other, a kind of Greek approach, is preoccupied with something more artistically intellectual and spiritual and feels, more connected to the Sun; to Christ as a kind of descending Apollo or Sun God.

We however live in the times following the confluence of streams in which Jesus the man was produced by processes of directed heredity, and Christ the God descended into him as wine into the vessel, to produce the "God-Human", Jesus Christ. Seen in this way we can see in the struggles over sexuality and gender an unravelling of a knot originally woven in times anterior to the origin of Christianity on earth, an unravelling experienced by us both internally and socially.

I was interested to read about the work being done by Tina and others to bring the transgendered question to the forefront of the Lambeth Conference. It is a wonderful work and needs to be supported but what of the other denominations and what are they doing.

I am writing as a member of the Methodist church and since 2005 have been attending a Methodist church and will be going forward for training in the New Year to be a worship leader. The Methodist churches view on sexuality is governed by the Derby convention which states that the church celebrates All forms of sexuality. This is a wonderful document which gives all people the right no matter what sexuality or identity to come to a Methodist Church and worship God as the person they truly are.

In practice though most LGBT people wouldn't set a foot in an established church due to the perception and often the reality that most people who call themselves Christians believe that they are evil due either to their sexuality or real gender. Although I have found most churches would accept a transsexual they are often less charitable to gay, lesbian or transvestites.

With this in mind for the past 6 months the Reverend Linda Bishop, myself and Susan Nimmo have been compiling a report and DYD presentation for the Methodist church on the viability of a LGBT service along the lines of MCC Manchester.

This report examines the LGBT question from both biblical and personal points and shows the effect the churches stance on the LGBT question has had to alienate over 3 million god believing people from church.

In doing the majority of the research for this report I have been shocked to my core in hearing some of the cases of abuse that have taken place and its effects both on the person and their faith.

How can anybody be so sick as to preach that God is against a person because of either their sexuality or gender (Wasn't it the same God who made us this way in the first place)? In the words of Jesus we must worship God in spirit and TRUTH and how can we do that if we are living a lie.

This report has now been finished and by the time the next newsletter is compiled will be under consideration by the Methodist church.

Having spoken to the president of the Methodist church who was very supportive of the work we are doing I think the report will get a fair hearing and hopefully shortly we shall have an LGBT service with changing facilities in the Methodist church in Huddersfield and hopefully as the service succeeds the idea will spread to other Methodist churches. We have also recommended a transgendered support group and a mobile communion to be taken to people if either due to illness (Aids) or fear they feel unable to come to the service.

We need your prayers at this time. It is interesting to note that the church of England and the Methodist church are at present in talks to forge closer ties, so perhaps where the Methodist church leads the Church of England will follow.

First of all, how does one define an Angel? They are regarded as messengers of God. God is Love, God is the Universe, God is Man through His Son, Jesus. The Universe is so vast yet God is in control. Every one of us has a Guardian Angel, yes, it is very true, believe it or not. It appears we simply forget and/or take it for granted; we all have a Guardian Angel, is always there by our side, wafting to help us, guide us, hear us, to name but many things they do for us and for our own good. They really do want to help.

Angelic Hierarchies. There are three hierarchies and each one has three levels in each. They are as follows:-

1. The highest level consists of: Seraphim, Cherubim and Thrones. They are closest to God and are very powerful indeed. They look after the Universe and Galaxies.
2. The second level consists of Dominions, Virtues and Powers. They, I believe, act as channels of Light and can make miracles happen. They act like transformers to make power of Light accessible to human beings.
3. The third level consists of **Principalities, Archangels and Angels**. They are closest to us humans on Earth. Principalities look after nations, cities and large multinational companies. Archangels, there are millions everywhere but there are four chief Archangels, Archangel Michael being the Head one. The other three Archangels are:- Gabriel, Uriel and Raphael. They and other Archangels direct Angels. Angels are guardians on Earth, taking commands from the Archangels to carry out God's work for the good of Mankind.

One sees Angels in carved form e.g. in wood or stone, also pictures of them in stained glass windows and the like in churches or any form of place of worship and graveyards. They appear in carved stone on façades of churches cathedrals etc. and are very much present in such establishments. Religion, it appears, teaches, so it would seem, very little about Angels and the roles they play here on Earth and, indeed, the Universe. It is high time the religious leaders become more open minded on this subject. Angels will help us, but there is one thing we must do to call upon them for help, guidance, healing and so on, and that is we just simply ask. Then they will come to us in an instant and help us in whatever we want. They cannot help us unless we ask. The reason for this is they do not have free will, only we have free will. This is Divine Law.

Angels are highly spiritual beings composed of love and light and are very much part of God. They will never harm anyone and indeed, any living creature, insects or plants. They do not judge, criticise nor question. They will help us in any given situation; however, if we, shall we say, wanted to win the National Lottery, the Grand National or anything of that nature, they will not entertain it, i.e. not for selfish needs. They will help us as described in the 3rd paragraph, for the Highest Good, for selfless good and to the Glory to God

and Jesus Christ. They love beauty in all forms as created by God. They are heavenly beings. As I say, they do not interfere with our free will. If they were to interfere with our plans, they would be wrong to do so; they would be regarded as “busy bodies”. Busy bodies, on Earth as you know, are those who manipulate, interfere with our affairs. They think they ‘know what is best’ for us, thus taking responsibility for our plans and lifestyles. They have no right whatsoever to do this. Every individual must take responsibility for his/her own life. Busy bodies can be regarded as control freaks so beware of them!

To get help and assistance for your Guardian Angel and indeed other angels, who are there to help in any given situation; this may include Archangels, depending on your circumstances, best to be in a calm frame of mind then ask them to come forth and they will be there for you in an instant. Tell them your situation and ask for help, guidance, healing or whatever, best you are in a positive frame of mind. They will help and for the highest good. They are very loving and supportive and it comes to you unconditionally, no strings attached as it were. It is worth noting Archangels do come and help as required, for example, Archangel Michael protects one from danger and Archangel Raphael gives healing as required and he protects travellers. He guided me on my trip to Portugal, February 2008, guiding me to take the right trains and buses to Fatima, a “Lourdes” of Portugal and to Evora, not far from the Algarve. I do not go on organised trips or cruises - I find them to be boring. Best to go on one’s own steam, so to speak. It is said Archangel’s retreat is in Fatima, all Archangels have their own retreat anywhere in the world.

Is this far fetched? Not so! At least give it a go and it will be the first steps to start with to enable you to change your life and for the better, for the highest good. There are times when one is in danger, they can pull one away from it even if the individual does not ask for help in the same way, for example, if you see a damsel in distress, you spring into action and save her, pull her away from danger!

You can help anyone known to, say, who needs help in whatever form it takes, by contacting your Guardian Angel and ask him/her to liaise with the person’s Guardian Angel and help/assist as required and the person concerned gets help and assistance and, as I say, for the highest good.

Well, there it is. Take it or leave it, it is your decision. At least, do keep an open mind and I hope you take the right decision and accept Angels into your lives. There are books describing the roles of Angels, worth considering. Good luck!

Oh! I almost forgot. Angels have a great sense of humour, they enjoy a good laugh. They must have been with us at the Entertainment at our Sibyls weekends and helped us to enjoy ourselves so there it is. HAVE A GOOD LAUGH, they love it!!!

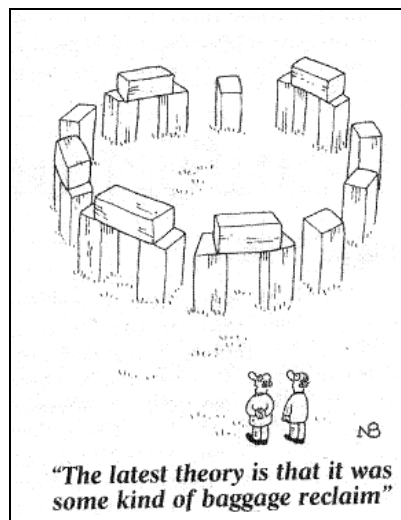
A CAUTIONARY TALE

Lana Wake

One of the luminaries of the sixteenth century church was St. Teresa of Avila. Amongst the many words of wisdom she uttered, she once said, "Beware lest your prayer be answered"

A couple were about to celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary. Both were in their 65th year and had led exemplary lives, pillars of their community, having raised a lovely family, totally faithful to each other, and dedicated to their church.

As a reward for their splendid behaviour throughout their lives, a Good Fairy came down to them, complete with magic wand, and promised to give each of them one wish, whatever they wanted. The wife thought for a minute and said "I've always wanted to go on a world cruise with my husband". The Good Fairy waved her wand and instantly the wife found two world cruise tickets in her hand. The Good Fairy then asked the husband what he would like. At that instant the Devil got into his soul and he said, "I'd like to have a wife 30 years younger than I am". The Good Fairy raised her eyebrows and said, "Are you sure". "Yes, yes" said the man. The Good Fairy persisted and said, "Are you absolutely certain?" "Yes, yes, yes" said the man. The Good Fairy shrugged her shoulders, waved her wand and, in an instant, he was 95 years old.



FINAL THOUGHT

If you haven't already done so, now is the time to give up all hope of a better past.



THE SIBYLS

Christian Spirituality Group
For the Transgendered

36 Salmons Lane
Whyteleafe
Surrey CR3 0AN

☎ 020 8763 0146

WEEKEND AT ST COLUMBA'S WOKING

13-15 SEPTEMBER 2008

Name.....

Required - Single/twin room (delete as appropriate)

Name of other occupant in room

Willing to share with

Address

(if not as per your address label)

.....

.....

Phone No.

Please reserve for me the following number of places:-

Full weekend Friday night to Sunday lunch £130.00

Non-residential - all meals £96.00

Cheque payable to "Miss J Walmsley – The Sibyls" enclosed £.....

I would like you to book me a room at the Metro Hotel Yes/No
(£39 per night, special agreed rate - pay direct to the hotel)

I would be prepared to be moved to the hotel if others have a greater need to stay on
the premises at St Columba's Yes/No

Any special dietary requirements

Any other special needs

Do you need help with transport to Woking

Please send this form with your cheque to Jay Walmsley asap